

# Behavioral Health Advisory Council

2104 W. Laburnum Ave

Richmond, VA 23227

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## I. Attendance

Present: Katharine Hunter, Livia Jansen, Margaret Anne Lane, Rhonda Thissen, Susan D. Williams, William Williams, Kathleen Levenston, Ron Pritchard, Kati Dean, Anne Edgerton, Megan Hodges, Bonnie Neighbour, Larry Almarode, Stephen Dawe, Becky Sterling, Lauren Ball, Jane Ellis, Betsy Lalla, Lynn DelaMer, Shatada Floyd-White.

Absent: Sherry Confer, Catharine Harrison, Anthony Duncan, Lisa Moore, Jan Brown, Cheryl Ann Bowman, Elizabeth Drapen, Heather Seaman, Tammy Farmer, Shannon Haworth, Mary Aab, Susan Fletcher, Amanda Rode.

## II. Guests

Sarah Rudden

## III. Opening of Business

Jane Ellis called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

## IV. Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment

Introductions were made around the room. Ron Pritchard urged Council members to make a distinction between medical marijuana and recreational marijuana as the issue of legalization of marijuana is being discussed presently. He also stated that VAADAC does not support the legalization of marijuana. Rhonda hoped everyone would read the article in last week's Style Weekly about a detox program in Henrico.

Larry stated that the Arlington CSB Program Director is willing to present at the next meeting, and he explained a training he went through called WHAM (Whole Health Action Management).

## V. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council reviewed the minutes and corrections were requested. Ron Pritchard motioned for the approval of the minutes with these corrections, Rhonda seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

VI. Financial Update

Anne Edgerton passed around the financial report for review. She also passed out examples of the “Recovery Dolls” and the example of what the notecard accompanying the dolls would say. Suggestions were made for the dolls; “Recovery is Real”, “Recovery Partners” , and “Recovery is Inclusive” . MHAV will look into imprinting three different phrases on the three colors. The draft for the “visitor card” to be left behind with the dolls was looked over and comments incorporated.

VII. Membership Update

Lynn DelaMer welcomed Betsy Lalla and Stephen Dawe, our newest members, to the Council. She updated the Council on the status of another applicant who withdrew. She listed the vacancies at this time: Four in the State Agency category, three in SUD or Co-Occurring SUD and SMI category, three in the Family Members of Children with SED, SUD, or Co-Occurring category, and one in the Family Member of Adults with SMI, SUD or Co-Occurring.

VIII. DBHDS Update

Rhonda Thissen stated that DBHDS has a new commissioner, Dr. Ferguson. DBHDS staff has just developed a new mission and vision statement, which will be up on their new website, hopefully August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Over the next couple of years the department is embarking on a system transformational plan designed to improve services. There were three goals presented: Identify a core set of behavioral health services consistently available across the Commonwealth, develop a multi-year funding strategy, and further transition to performance-based contracting. Transformation teams are to be configured and involve different agencies to construct a strategic plan. Once teams have been developed they will establish goals at 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, and 24 months.

There has been money to support development of transitional services for youth ages 16-25 for FY15 and FY16. There is 5% of the federal block grant set aside for youth experiencing first episode psychosis. Over the next two years there is \$8.5 million for that. The department received applications from seventeen CSBs requesting funding. Thirteen out of the seventeen applicants are proposing to special care teams based on a

vocational educational and peer support model. Rhonda will give us an update about this process at the next meeting.

The state budget, which just announced a shortfall of \$345 million, is not meeting revenue targets for the year. Therefore, State agencies are being asked to present new budgets, as there must be overall cuts of 15%.

Rhonda also discussed a new position at DBHDS new office of recovery support. It is available on the DBHDS website.

Rhonda asked Becky to give an update on the Governor's Task Force. The documentation is available on the task force website, but 10 recommendations were decided. Some examples of these recommendations: Families want access to information when their loved one needs MH treatment. She stated that advance directives can be one answer to that dilemma. Also, the Task Force recommended increased collaboration with the Veterans' system, and having the same tool for all bookings at jail, not just for those suspected to have MH or SA issues. Recruiting and retaining psychiatrists was another area, as was whether Virginia should allow an ER doctor to initiate a TDO, as other states have done. Becky also stated that the new position at DBHDS is in no way supposed to be a complaints department, as it is in other states.

Lunch at 11:38

IX. Presentation

Ron Pritchard presented a video call "Anonymous People". After the video he talked about the value of integrated recovery and treatment.

X. Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

XI. Adjournment

Ron Pritchard motioned to adjourn, Lynn DeLaMer seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:26pm.